United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in unanimous resolution, confirms that UNTAC functions will end with creation of new Cambodian Government; withdrawal to be completed by 15 November.

+ Responding to confirmation of Haitian Prime Minister and his assumption of office, Security Council votes unanimously to suspend sanctions against Haiti; permanent lifting of sanctions to be considered once provisions of Governors Island Agreement have been fully implemented.

+ Special Envoy Dante Caputo appeals to international community to aid economic and institutional reconstruction in Haiti; stresses importance of restoring diplomatic relations with new Government.

+ Secretary-General expresses sorrow about massacre in Brazil of over 100 Yanomami Indians; says their killing, in International Year of the World's Indigenous People, highlights plight of all indigenous people.

+ Special Representative for former Yugoslavia urges leaders of Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Presidency to help United Nations aid convoy leave Mostar where Moslem civilians have blocked its path since Wednesday.

+ Panel of Inquiry investigating Harbel massacre travels to Liberia to make contact with Interim Government, Armed Forces, political parties and individuals.

+ Secretary-General to visit Milan and Geneva next week; to meet with Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg and Secretary-General of NATO.

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The Security Council today confirmed that the functions of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) would end with the creation next month of a new Cambodian Government. The Council also announced its full support for the Constituent Assembly's work of approving a constitution, and stressed the importance of completing that work in accordance with the Paris Agreements. It took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 860 (1993).

(more)

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The Council also decided that the withdrawal of the military component of UNTAC would end on 15 November in order to ensure that the process was safe and orderly.

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Responding to the confirmation of the Prime Minister of Haiti and his assumption of office this week, the Security Council today voted unanimously to suspend with immediate effect the sanctions imposed against Haiti in June by resolution 841 (1993). It requested that all States act on that decision as soon as possible. Provision for such a move was made in the Agreement of Governors Island, reached in June between the President of Haiti and the Commander-in-Chief of the country's Armed Forces.

The Council took the action by adopting resolution 861 (1993), by which it also confirmed its readiness to immediately terminate that suspension if, the Secretary-General, with due regard for the views of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, informed it that the relevant Haitian authorities had not complied with Governors Island Agreement. The Council undertook to consider lifting the sanctions permanently once the Secretary-General had informed it that the relevant provisions of the Agreement had been fully implemented.

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Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), today appealed to the international community to become actively involved in the economic and institutional reconstruction of Haiti, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Caputo said Latin American and Caribbean countries had a special responsibility in that regard.

Mr. Caputo also stressed that countries which previously had diplomatic representation in Haiti should fully restore their relations with the new Government in Port-au-Prince.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed great sorrow about the massacre in Brazil of over 100 Yanomami Indians, including women and children. He said that the event, taking place during the International Year

Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, today urged the leaders of the Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian Presidency to assist in restoring freedom of movement to the United Nations aid convoy that had been blocked in Mostar since Wednesday. According to a spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), 113 United Nations military and civilian personnel were trapped in the blockade.

On Wednesday night, the 37-vehicle convoy unloaded its 200-tonne cargo of food first in Croat-controlled west Mostar, and then in Muslim east Mostar. Large numbers of local civilians prevented the vehicles from leaving, lying down in front of them and blocking the road with buses and other vehicles. The local residents said they were doing it because they feared that once the convoy left, they would be subjected to intensified shelling by enemy forces.

Mr. Stoltenberg said that while he sympathised with their plight, it was entirely unacceptable for a United Nations humanitarian convoy to be blocked that way or used to advance the political or military objectives of any party. The cooperation from both parties in Mostar in respecting their agreements with UNPROFOR was vital to the operation.

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The Panel of Inquiry appointed by the Secretary-General to investigate the massacre which took place at Harbel, Liberia, on 6 June, travelled to that country on Wednesday in order to make contacts with the Interim Government and the Armed Forces, as well as political parties and individuals. Earlier in the week, the Panel met with United Nations officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations in Geneva.

The Panel has appealed to anyone with firsthand information about the incident at Harbel to contact it directly or through the United Nations in Monrovia, and has said that any information received will be handled confidentially. The Panel consists of Amos S. Wako, Attorney-General of Kenya, as Chairman, Robert Gersony of the United States and Ambassador Mahmoud Kassem of Egypt.

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On Monday, 30 August, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will attend the opening session of the Institute of International Law in Milan. He will then go to Geneva for several days to meet with senior United Nations officials, including Thorvald Stoltenberg, his Special Representative for the Former Yugoslavia and Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

On Wednesday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali will meet the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Manfred Wörner. The Secretary-General is scheduled to return to New York on 7 September.

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